

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 26-34 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled. New claims 33-34 have been added.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 26-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Downs et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,618). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to a data display method in which a data terminal receives an image mark symbolically expressing a content of data embedded in the image mark by means of electronic watermark techniques. The data embedded in the image mark is extracted by the data terminal and the information as to the electronic signature of the extracted data is decoded using a public key. The authenticity of both the information that is desired to be disclosed and the information after the expiration term is verified by using the decoded electronic signature. The data terminal compares the information as to the expiration term with information of a clock of the data terminal. The image mark is displayed if a current time obtained from the information falls within the expiration term represented by the information. Finally, a menu as to the information that is desired to be disclosed is displayed, and if selected, the information is desired to be disclosed and embedded in the image mark is displayed.

It is submitted that these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Downs et al. Downs et al disclose an electronic content delivery system for securely providing data. The Examiner points to column 6, lines 37-48 and column 24, line 65 to column 25, line 36, of Downs et al for allegedly disclosing Applicants' claimed receiving step. However, Downs et al disclose that the digital codes defining use restrictions such as copy free, permitted number of copies, number of plays, etc., are watermarked in the content itself. On the other hand, according to the present invention, it is in an image mark that the data including information that is desired to be disclosed, information as to expiration term and information as to electronic signature are watermarked. The image mark of the present invention is a mark for symbolically expressing the substance of the embedded data. In other words, the content itself that is desired to be disclosed by the information is located at another site addressed by another URL. The watermarked information is in an image mark which acts as a button or pointer for leading a reader of the information to this other URL. Therefore, Downs et al clearly fail to disclose or suggest the receiving step of the pending claims.

Furthermore, the Examiner contends that Applicants' step of displaying the image mark on a display is disclosed at column 21, lines 43-58 and column 59, lines 55-59 of Downs et al. However, in this portion of Downs et al, it is disclosed that in order to judge whether purchase or rent of content is permitted, the period of time after the beginning availability date and before the last date of availability is used as

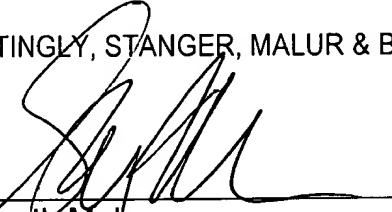
a usage condition. This is completely different from Applicants' claimed expiration term. As such, Downs et al also fail to disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention. Therefore, it is submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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